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SWEDISH METAL

SWEDISH
METAL
EXPLODING ON THE SET



Leviticus



Charizma



Jerusalem



Simson

Sweden may very well be the new capital of Christian heavy metal. Take that LA! Jerusalem and Leviticus have rocked and edified us for years, but what seems like out of nowhere comes three more Swedish metal groups: Motherlode, Charizma and Simson.

Motherlode and Charizma, I believe, jump right into the "world-class level" of quality, along with other heavyweights: Stryper; Bloodgood; Barren Cross; Trytan and Whitecross. These bands are impressive and can compete with any of the worldly bands out there. Sweden just doesn't accept mediocrity, I guess. These bands are excellent.



Leviticus pictured l-r: Ez Gomer; Terry H.; Kjell Andersson; and Bjorn Stigsson

Leviticus used to be good. Now they're great. They've moved right into that "world class" elite brand of bands I mentioned before. Terry Hjortander, who goes by Terry H in the US (for obvious reasons. How do you pronounce Hjortander?), has helped Leviticus refine their sound for a more melodic, yet stronger sound.

Bjorn Stigsson, who basically is Leviticus, has also very much improved his songwriting with each new release. Their latest album, **Setting Fire To The Earth**, scorches. "From my point of view," says subscriber and friend Daniel Nordstrom, "Setting Fire To The Earth is the best Christian album ever."

This album is so hot, I want to scream and do flips!--and I've only heard three songs off of it!

One song in particular that stands out is **Saved**. It starts off with a total full-on and drawn out shout of "Pra-a-a-ise the Lord!" It's some of the most glorious and sincere praise I've ever heard! There's something exhilarating and special about shouting praises to the Lord. We did it at my church once for about three seconds and it was wonderful. King David put this into practice in his tabernacle. (Psalm 66:1)

Terry flies from this into lyrics straight out of the book of Joel: "In the last days/ I'll pour out My Spirit upon all people/ Your sons and your daughters will prophesy/ Old men dream dreams and young men see visions."

The chorus is so wonderful, it's shocking: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved/ Hallelujah, hallelujah/ glory to God, will be saved/ Hallelujah, hallelujah/ glory to God."

It's awesome. I'd say definitely in the top 10 best metal songs of all time. (I'm excited, by the way.--ed)

I asked Leviticus when this awesome piece of vinyl would be available to us here in the US. They said it was released here in May and a company called Solid Rock will distribute it. You can order it directly from the Leviticus Forces Fan Club for \$15 (Money order or cash--absolutely no checks). Send to 'em c/o Magnus Holm, Blabarsstigen 37, 541 33 SKOVDE, Sweden.

Leviticus formed in 1981. The two teenagers and cousins, Hakan and Kjell Andersson, met the older Bjorn and began to jam together.

They released their first album in 1982, a maxi EP called "Sta och titta pa." All the lyrics were in Swedish. One year later they released the Swedish version of I Shall Conquer, called "Jag Skall Segra." In '84, they released I Shall Conquer on Shadow records along with a maxi-single of Day by Day and Let Me Fight. They played Greenbelt that year also.

The Strongest Power was released in '85 and finally on Pure Metal Records in '86.

**What made you change your lyrics from Swedish to English?

"We want to spread the gospel outside Sweden. It sounds better and more professional in English."

**Why did you choose the name Leviticus?

"It is a book in the Bible. The Levites were praising the Lord with music."

**What future touring plans do you have?

"We plan to make a Sweden tour this fall or winter and next year we'll tour the US. That's what we've got so far."

**When you opened for Twisted Sister in Finland, what was the crowd response?

"We got a very warm response. We were the support act for Uriah Heep and Nazareth on their Sweden tour last May and got a warm reception and good reviews."

This August they headlined at Greenbelt. This was the third time they played it.

**Do you guys preach in concert?

"We want to tell everyone at our concerts that Jesus is Lord and that He died for their sins. We want to spread the gospel."

**What kind of equipment do you play out of?

"Bjorn uses Charvel and Fender guitars, Boss pedals and Marshall amps. Kjell uses Tama drums and Ziljdan cymbals. Ez uses Rickenbacker and Fender basses and an Ampeg amp."

**Where do you play mostly?

"We only play on the profane scene. Never in churches and so forth."

**Does your music ministry support you guys financially?

"No. We sometimes have to take our own money to play with."

**What would you like to see happen with Christian music?

"We together shall throw Satan away from the music. The Christian music will be the head and the other the tail."

**I hear you're gonna do a solo album. Tell me about it.

"I'm doing it because I feel like working with a different sort of music. I want to experiment with new songs and I'll also try synthesizers. I want to take a break and try to extend my music."

"Some years ago, before my salvation, I had my own mixer and I used to write and record my own songs."

"It'll be heavy metal, of course, but this time have some influences from boogie and synth music. The production will be more melodious, close to symphonicrock."

"The musicians on the album will be Kjell and Hakan on drums and bass and Sonny Larsson, from Motherlode, on lead vocals. A girl named Tina Spangberg, who has a lovely 'gospel feeling,' will sing the lead on one song."

"Everyone of us who's working with the album are very satisfied with everything this far."

**How was it performing as a three-piece?

"Performing as a three-piece band is not different from a four-piece band. You're one member less on the stage."

**What would you like to say to the readers?

"Go on fighting for the Lord. Be prepared for the thing the Lord does today. Be straight in your faith. Put on the whole armor of God and believe the Word of God and you will have a good basis to stand on and you'll have success when you follow God."

**How can we pray for you?

"Pray for us that we will have success in reaching out with our message. That God will lead us in the future as He has done the past years."

**Have you had many opportunities to share your faith with other musicians? What has been the result?

"On local concerts we often share our faith with other musicians. At large concerts we seldom meet the other musicians."

That's the latest from Leviticus, who I truly believe are now one of the best. I can't say enough about the improvement Terry H's vocals have brought, so I won't.

"Terry has the best rock voice in Sweden," says Daniel Nordstrom. "Many people look at me as if I was mad when I say this. 'What about Joey Tempest or Sonny Larsson?'" But I think Terry H is number one. No one sings with that power and energy. I really love his way to sing. The message in the lyrics becomes Flames of Fire when he sings that hit me right in my heart."



Sonny Larsson and Joey Tempest (the lead singer for Europe).

Motherlode

Well, I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is: Motherlode was one of the best Christian metal bands in the world. I just told you the bad news: was.

What Motherlode was, and is, is a secular rock band. Their former lead singer, Sonny Larsson, is a Christian and writes lyrics that reflect that fact clearly.

Sonny was fired as a lead singer, because the other members didn't want Christian lyrics anymore.

Well, praise God! That's not really bad news at all! I think blessings are in order for Sonny (Matt 5:10-12).

Currently, Sonny is working on Bjorn Stigsson's solo album and fronting for Charizma. Sonny's beautiful voice is truly a blessing from the Lord. He can be heard singing Christian lyrics on Motherlode's last album, **Sanctuary**, the upcoming album by Bjorn and some future release from Charizma.

His voice has a strong low-end that lets him go places vocally that Joey Tempest or Klaus Meine can't go, yet also has a tender high end that punches red lights in the high range. His voice is golden, I tell ya. If you don't believe me, catch this: Yngwie Malmsteen offered him a job as lead vocalist in Rising Force.

Asked why he turned down Yngwie, Sonny replied, "I knew very early that this offer didn't interest me. I don't like neither his lyrics nor his music. I feel that I want to work with Christian musicians.

The **Sanctuary** album that this band from Orebro released is killer! It outsold any other Christian music in Sweden. It's reminiscent of some of the earliest Scorpions music stylistically, with roots in the blues. It's melodic metal, if you want a label.

The album was produced by Kit Wolven, who earlier has worked with big names like David Bowie, Thin Lizzy and Uriah Heep. The other members of Motherlode, whom you could pray for, are: Tom Nilsson-electric and acoustic guitars/backing vocals; and Peter Rudstrom-bass. Johan Lindstrom played keyboards, as did Mark Stanway. Stanway plays keyboards for Magnum, who Motherlode has toured with.

If you can't get ahold of **The Sanctuary** album, you won't be disappointed in the least when you hear Sonny fronting Charizma. They are so good they don't need a new lead singer, but now they've got a killer one!

If you want to write Motherlode, contact their manager @ Headline Productions, Attn: Dennis Karlsson, Karlslundsgatan 14 B, S-703 41, OREBRO Sweden.

Charizma

Charizma is a family band. By that I don't mean you can gather Mom, Dad, Grandad and Grandma, your little sister and brother around the stereo and crank it...not unless you have a very hip and rockin' family. The three members (before Sonny Larsson) are brothers.



Sonny Larsson beltin' it out with Charizma.
Photo by Hans Broms

Bosse, Janne and Goran Nikolausson make up the nucleus of Charizma and now Sonny Larsson adds vocals. Bosse, 23 years old, plays bass and sang lead vocals before Sonny joined. Janne, 25, plays drums and does background vocals. Goran, 19, plays guitar.

The three brothers played punk when they were young--"because you don't have to be so well for that kind of music." Inspired by Kiss, the brothers began to play metal. A few years later they decided to be rock musicians and soldiers in God's army. "Nothing or everything," they said as they began to dream of the big rock scenes.

I asked Charizma how they started, and they answered, "We formed in 1981. We were three brothers who had played a couple of years. Then we met a keyboard player who was really good. At that time we were not really Christian, but he was. He refused to play with us if we didn't use Christian lyrics. That's how it all started and we received Jesus Christ for real in our lives in 1983."

****What are your influences?**

"Our influences are mostly from American rock 'n' roll, like: Stryper; Sabu; Triumph; and Bon Jovi, but there are also groups from Scandinavia like Europe and TNT. Of course we listen to all kinds of Christian music. There is a lot of good bands around the world. It's just too bad they're not all Christian."

****What's it like being a Christian in Sweden?**

"Well, being a Christian in Sweden is not too hard. We are allowed to talk about Jesus anywhere we like, but only a couple percent of the Swedish are Christians. So, we have a lot of work to do."

****How's the response to your live gigs?**

"The response to our live gigs is good. We try to give the audience a real show, and give all we got."

****How can someone get ahold of your album?**

"EMI in Sweden has the distribution contract on our LP and single, but only for Scandinavia. So, if someone wants to order it from the USA, the address is: Charizma, Sondagsvagen 19, S-572 00 Oskarshamn, Sweden."

****What's the name Charizma mean?**

"We chose the name Charizma after listening to one of the songs on a Kiss album. Later on we discovered that it is a name of the Holy Spirit, at least in Sweden."

****Have you all got along well as brothers?**

"We have never had any problems with being brothers. Of course we sometimes disagree, but we live in the love of Jesus, so we can always solve it."

****What's the response of the church in Sweden to your music?**

"They mostly respect us for what we are doing, even if they don't like rock 'n' roll. They think it is for a good cause."

****What's your message to the Christian headbangers who read Heaven's Metal?**

"To the headbangers: Keep on banging for Christ! Pray for all the Christian heavy metal groups in the USA. God bless rock 'n' roll! (Which is the title of one of their songs)"

****Is your upcoming album gonna be distributed in the USA?**

"We know nothing about our next album yet, but we are writing the songs and they are a lot better. The sound is going to be heavier and we are going to have a new lead singer. The singer from Motherlode, Sonny Larsson, has recently left the group and is singing in Charizma for the time being. But we don't know anything about the future."

****How can we pray for ya?**

"You can pray for: our new singer; a record company with connections in America; and for our gigs."

****Please explain some of your lyrics. For instance, Turn Me On, On Your Own, Rock The World, and We Are The Knights.**

"**Turn Me On.** These lyrics are based on what we call in Sweden, 'The meat market.' People are having one night stands and they don't care about love. The only way you can use love right is when God is involved."

"**We Are The Knights:** We must stand up and fight against Satan. We will win and he will lose."

"**Rock The World:** We must shake the world and wake people up."

"**On Your Own:** It's how a non-Christian sees the world."

They couldn't afford to pay for their **Rock The World** album themselves, so they went to Sparbanken in Oskarshamn where they live and borrowed 100,000 Swedish crowns and the album was reality.

Sweden's biggest rock magazine, Okej, chose Charizma as "band of the month" this spring. Their new album should capture their quality and maturity as a band. It'll be along the lines of **Turn Me On**, their recent single. This **Rock The World** album doesn't do the band justice anymore, due to their growth as musicians. This is a real compliment, because **Rock The World** is hot.

Tomas Einarsson, the editor of a Swedish Christian metal magazine called Holy Metal, has recently seen Charizma with Sonny on lead vocals and says, "I tell you, this is one of the hottest bands in Sweden now."

Their music is melodic, much like a lot of the commercial metal bands that are making it big today. They don't get soft and pretty, but they do have a polished sound.

My favorite of theirs is **We Are The Knights**, which is an urgent call to battle. The rhythm is headbangin' and is fast throughout the song and the chorus presents an anthemic harmony that kicks the grills off your car speakers.

The music adds real emphasis to some of the strong statements made in this song. For example, Bosse sings, "Satan is the loser," and the instruments hit some rapid-fire chords that seem to add three exclamation points to the sentence.

"We're running out of time/ There's no time to lose." Charizma displays a dedication to doing their best at their craft, which basically means they are working their way to the top. It's not striving, it's called being serious. God calls us to be hard workers, and these guys are. When you get to a wall or a "closed door", that's where God can be strong in your weakness.

Sonny is joining Charizma in Poland for the greta Christian rock festival. It is being broadcast live on tv over all of Eastern Europe!



Ulf
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artist to do
this wonderful
new logo; and
all you
readers--you
really
encourage me.

Jerusalem

These men of God are anointed to preach the Word of God through music. I know it. I've seen the power of God work in a mighty way at one of their concerts.

Their **Warrior** album solidified them as the first real metal band in the kingdom. It's a classic and should be in every headbanger's collection. A video off the album, **It's Mad**, made scheduled rotation on MTV—a first for Christian rock (and this was 1982/83!).

These believers were the first Swedish Christian rockers to leave their country with the message. They could be considered the top dog of Swedish Christian metal, but they don't wear that tag. They are too busy being on fire for Jesus. Their uncompromised, serious devotion is really an edifying example for us all.

This interview updates us since the last one, which was published in Vol II, "#3.

****What's happening with Jerusalem?**

"Right now we're finishing the recordings of our seventh album. It's our biggest project ever. The fall of '87 we're planning on touring Scandinavia, Europe and part of Eastern Europe too."

****Share with me the fruit of your ministry since we last talked.**

"We see much more people being saved now than ever before. In fact, we've seen more people touched by God this year than in the ten other years we've been playing. Our financial situation is also much better now than before. We hate the devil more than ever. We love Jesus more than ever. Wherever we go, we'll destroy the works of the devil. **We plunder hell and populate heaven.**"

****What's the spiritual climate in Sweden now?**

"The spiritual climate in Sweden right now is like this: Persecution for being upfront for Jesus are stronger today, but there's also greater glory and a more tangible presence of God on His anointed ones. In fact, it's stronger than ever. We're definitely standing on the border to revival, and it will shake Europe as well. If you don't hear about it, it's not revival. Europe is boiling, and people are desperate for peace in their hearts, and we know that Jesus is the answer."

****Have you cast out demons and healed people in your concerts?**

"We have cast out demons and healed sick people by laying hands on them and praying for them."

"Here's an example: Recently a girl fell into a coma just before we went on stage. When we came off stage she was still lying in our dressing room in a coma, so we told her friends who was there, that it was a demon that made her like that. We also heard that this had happened several times before. So the rest of the guys

and I started to rebuke the devil and tell the demon to come out, and in the same moment the word was spoken, she woke up with a smile, praising Jesus. Everybody was so happy."

"At another concert in Amsterdam I called a girl up to the front of the stage. This was at a secular rock club. I laid my hands on her and God touched her and she was healed in front of the eyes of her friends. We have many other wonderful stories to tell. This is a part of what have happened on our concerts."

****What would you like to say to the readers of Heaven's Metal?**

"Read Mark 16:17-18 and do what it says. Everybody who is born again can do the works of Jesus. And secondly, don't be fixed on the image of heavy metal. It's not by that that you will win people, it's by the power and anointing of God that you succeed in winning people for Jesus."

****How can we pray for ya?**

"Pray that we'll succeed and prosper in every area of our lives so that the name of Jesus will be glorified."

****Who is going to release and distribute this new album?**

"Right now, we really don't know who will release and distribute our new record, so we can't tell, but God will open the doors."

****How do you feel about all the negative media attention television evangelists like Jim Bakker and Oral Roberts are receiving?**

"We don't know so much about the media attention about television evangelists. We only know that Oral Roberts is a man of God. So I'm careful about judging him. The rest of the tv stuff, we don't know."

****Is there anything I can do for you personally?**

"We would be happy if you could help us with a good follow-up for our band in America, so that we can come back and do a real powerful tour all over USA."

****Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

"Our new album will be titled, **"Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent."** There'll be some songs that the Heaven's Metal readers will like very much. They are called: **Plunder Hell and Populate Heaven, Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent, Rebels Of Jesus Christ, and Catch The Devil, Catch The Thief.**"

A contact address is: Jerusalem Music Production AB, Broderna Berwalds vag 41, 752 50 UPPSALA, Sweden.

Simson

Simson is from the town of Kristinehamn in Southern Sweden. The music they play is like the American style of commercial metal without ever stooping to a syrupy-sweet sound. It's very guitar-based.

The members of the band are: Anders A Ljunggren, who plays lead guitar; Jan Nilsson - bass; Camilla Kruse - backup vocals; Goran Edqvist - vocals; Niclas Kruse - drums; and Ola Ruud - keyboards.

Goran has a really good voice, which is original. The closest vocal sound I can think of that's similar is that of .38 Special. Anders is a hot guitar player. He produced their debut album, **It's You**. Maybe that's why the solos are all very clear in the mix. He really knows how to hit lots of notes in a short amount of time.

Forced By Love is probably the strongest tune on this 10-song album. It's got a strong melody, great opening chords and good mid-range vocals. There's a really hot lead break in this song, with good vibrato and sustained notes. Mixed in with this is a Pink Floyd-type Gregorian-style background chorus, as well as a low spoken voice in the Thin Lizzy vein.

The lyrics are passionate: "Millions of souls/ A sacred war is going on/ But not against flesh and blood/ Oh, oh, oh/ People are crying out/ Trying to get free/ A spiritual Viking/ The evil must flee, evil must flee....Forced by love, I got to go/ Forced by love/ Forced by love, got to sacrifice/ Forced by love."

There's a totally killer instrumental on the album, called **Wedding**, which features a heavy keyboard and guitar trade-off.

Samson is one of the memorable songs, because of the hooks in the chorus: "Have you ever heard of Samson?" The lyrics are a paraphrased narration from the Bible.

Other titles are: **It's You**; **Made Up Your Mind**; **Our Love Is Strong**; **Holy Metal**; **Springtime Rain**; **You Can't See The Wind**; and **The Battle's Won**.

Simson started in 1981 with four members. Since '85, they've had the current five-member lineup.

"We were friends who started to play together inspired by, among others, Jerusalem. Buying old Star drums and a Duke guitar, we began our first rehearsals in a garage at Sodermalmsgatan 8 B in Kristinehamn. Neighbors went crazy. A mystery even today."

****What are some of the struggles you go through as a band?**

"Other Christians who can't understand what we are doing. The problem to reach people. To get them to understand the message."

****What does the name Simson mean?**

"We took our name from a heavy man in the Bible. Samson."

****What is the church in Sweden like?**

"We are all members of a Pentecostal church. Some churches are very traditional and not open for new music. Others are seeing the music as a possibility to reach young people. It often depends on the leadership of the churches."

****Where are most of your gigs?**

"We have only been playing in Sweden, but in different kinds of places. From churches to profane amusement places in front of a public from less than 100 to 4-5,000 people."

****Is there a big distinction, like there is in the USA, between Christian rock and secular rock?**

"Yes it is. Christian rock have to be much better than secular to get the same reception. Therefore, Christian groups sometimes want to be known as 'secular groups that happen to have Christian members and lyrics with a touch of Christianity.'"

****What is your calling as a band and how did you receive that calling?**

"We have a common vision to reach young people with the message that Jesus is the only One that fully can give their lives meaning."

****What are your future plans?**

"There is a lot left to do for us in Sweden, but we are also very interested in coming to share our music to people in other countries. It is a fact that people easier receive the gospel from people coming from far away. In the future we hope to work full time with the band."

****Have you worked with or fellowshiped with the afore-mentioned bands?**

"We have done a few gigs together with Charizma and, to our great pleasure, a gig with Jerusalem."

****How was it?**

"It was very nice, especially the gig with Jerusalem, who is a band with a lot of experience. Both groups are great and we would love to cooperate with them again. Why not in US?"

****What are your goals and hopes for revival?**

"We know that revival is necessary for Sweden, because many young people are on their way to hell...ruining their lives with drugs, violence and immoral sex. We don't want a lot of people in hell to no use. We want them in heaven helping us singing praises to the Lord."

****What do you all do for a living? (How do you pay the rent?)**

"Niclas Kruse and Janne Nilsson are working three days a week in a factory making baking trays. Camilla Kruse has just finished school. Anders A. Ljunggren is working part-time teaching music. Goran Edqvist is engaged in social work with old people. Ola Ruud is a factory worker making oil-absorbing and emballage material."

****How involved with the Swedish government are you?**

Simson cont'd on pg 21



"I can't believe they're throwing a beach ball during our set!"--Scott Wenzel. Photo by Dan Stawski

Whitecross's album has been released by Pure Metal and is selling like mad all over the US! It cooks! It has to be the best production for any Pure Metal release yet.

The mix makes the band sound even more like Ratt. Someone ought to give a copy to Stephen Percy. They took a lot of time in the studio and I think the result has paid off all their efforts. I think the world may be in for a pleasant surprise. I really feel like this album will do very well on the secular market.

All the headbangers at Cornerstone were anxious to see how good Whitecross is in concert. They didn't let this headbanger down, as they rocked at several decibels for about an hour. The crowd went nuts! Rex's guitar solo, which is encapsulated on their album with the title **Nagasaki**, was blazing. Everyone was blown away, including Bloodgood's David Zaffiro.

The only thing that may have taken people by surprise was the non-conventional look the band has--as far as metal goes. I think they certainly made up for that with excellent music. I could tell their set really excited Glenn Kaiser. He could be seen backstage hugging the members and enthusiastically encouraging them.

The lineup of this energetic metal band is: Scott Wenzel on vocals; Rex Carroll on guitar; John Sproule on bass; and Mark Hedl on drums.

Scott and Rex came over to my tent later on that afternoon for the following interview. (Cornerstone was absolutely wonderful!)

****Tell me all about your debut album.**

"It's loud, rude and in your face," says Rex. "Other than that...the lyrics are very upfront. Basically, we're pulling no punches with the gospel, 'cause heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will not pass away. (See **Exhortation** on page .) The only thing that matters in this lifetime ultimately is whether or not Jesus Christ is Lord of your life. That's the only thing that matters."

"That's what we preach in our lyrics," says Scott.

"**Who Will You Follow** is kind of a questioning song. A challenge to try to get you to look at who's the master of your life," says Rex.

"**Enough Is Enough** is like a believer who's kind of on the fence, like, 'Well, I like to go to church on Sunday, but sometimes I like to sneak out with my buddies and party. I haven't surrendered every area of my life to the Lord yet and enough is enough!' As the chorus says, 'No more white lies,' now I'm not gonna play games with the Lord anymore, 'cause you're either gonna go all one way or all the other. Actually, in the end, there's no such thing as 'riding the fence.'"

"**He Is The Rock** is like an affirmation of our faith. It's kind of a celebration of Who the Lord is and not feeling ashamed of His name. Like at the concert today, we just want everybody to sing along with it and it's a fun song.

"**Looking For A Reason** is a Christian who's talkin' to an unbeliever. He's tellin' him, 'You do those drugs. You feel a need to get high. Did you ever wonder why? You're on a train headed straight for despair.' There's some other lines that are basically the same direction, but you're looking for a reason. It's kind of pointing out that your life is kind of on a merry-go-round until you find out that Jesus is the reason. That's the punchline at the end.

"We don't really have any tunes that are subtle. They're pretty much straight out."

"There's a ballad, which is **You're Mine**. I wrote that one," says Scott. "I wanted to relate to the kids that we're not superstars and we have feelings. I've been hurt in my life and the Lord showed me that, even when we go through pain, He hasn't left us. Sometimes we feel like, 'Hey! I'm a Christian now and it's gonna be rosey from here on out.' It's not that way, 'cause we're here on earth where there's sin and there's pain."

"The bottom line is that the Lord won't let you go," says Rex. "You're one of His."

"The song says, 'You're Mine,'" says Scott. "The Lord said in John 17, when He prayed for Himself and then His disciples and then for us. He said, 'Father, I want those whom You have given Me to be one, just as We are one...Not that You would take them out of the world, but protect them from the evil one.'"

Whitecross cont'd next page

Whitecross cont'd

**It's really good that you minister like that, especially admitting your own hurt. When you do that, people will just lock in to what you're saying. It really opens up things.

"I hope so. I'm up on the stage this afternoon, but I still have problems in my life. I sin. We all have temptation to sin. We're just real people. A lot of times our own songs are ministering to us as well."

"No Way I'm Going Down," says Rex. "That's just a fun 'kick the devil in the teeth' song."

"Seeing Is Believing. At the quarter end of the concert, there's a challenge to the Christians: 'If the people around us can't see the gospel, the light shining in our lives, then how are they gonna believe?' They'll believe the witness of our lives. That's what brings people into the kingdom, when they see that your life has been changed. That's one of the things that the Lord uses to bring people into the kingdom."

"All I Need," says Scott. "All I wanted to do is take people's imaginations from looking at what they want and look to Jesus, 'cause He's really all you need. You see everything with your eyes. 'I need this. I need this. I've gotta have a car. Gotta have a house. Gotta have a diamond ring or a watch.' You never really need it. All you need is Jesus. Everything is gonna burn. If you don't have Jesus, all the other stuff is a waste."

"Signs Of The End is kind of an exposition on the 24th and 25th chapters of Matthew," says Rex, "where Jesus tells us the signs of the end. An apocalyptic-type of song."

"That's the songs on the album. There's lots of guitar solos in-between."

**I really liked what you said in concert about, "The only Bible a lot of your friends are gonna read is your life."

"Yeah. You think, 'I'm just an average Christian. I'm not a pastor. I'm not a preacher. I don't have any special ministry.' But, the fact is: You go to school. You think, 'What about all the peer pressure on my life?' But did you ever think that to those other people around you, 'I'm their peers.' They're lookin' to your life. If they see a real inner-peace that comes from your relationship with the Lord, they'll want that. Sometimes you won't even know it, but they'll be influenced by the witness of your life, just by goin' to school and showin' up for class and having that peace in your heart from your relationship with the Lord. Sometimes that's all it takes. They'll notice something different about you."

**How did you come to the Lord, Scott?

"I was raised in a Pentecostal church. My parents made me go to church. I always loved church, though. As I grew up getting in the teenage years, I kinda wanted to experiment. I

saw my friends partyin' and I tried it. I wandered back and forth along the fence Rex was talkin' about.

"My grandmother's been prayin' for me since I was a baby. If I say anything, I'd just have to say that, 'There's power in prayer,' because there's nothing as powerful as prayer. I finally decided that I was gonna go one way or the other. I didn't want to walk the fence anymore by going to church and partyin' with my friends. So I came to that decision."

"One day I was at a Christian camp in Wapaca, WI. I just said, 'This is it, Lord.' I felt the touch on my life right then, that said, 'You can stand for me right now in front of your friends. They're gonna laugh at you.' I just felt that so strong, that the Lord was sayin' that to me. That was in 1978."

**How long has it been since you've had your life really committed to the Lord, Rex?

"When you get old, you start losin' track. I remember when I was a junior in high school I definitely made a commitment to follow the Lord. That was kind of like a seed that was planted. I really didn't bear fruit in public until I went to school in 1977. I guess it's been ten years that I've really been walkin' with the Lord."

"The Lord's spent a lot of that time teaching me about patience. It's, 'God, I want this. I want that. How come I'm not allowed to do these things?' Everytime it's just, 'Patient.'"

"The Lord gave me a scripture when I joined this band. Basically, it says, 'The Lord uses the things of this world that are not to confound the things that are.' What that means is, things that have no value, that are seemingly despised of this world, the Lord will raise those ministries up, because He'll find people that have humble attitudes before Him. Those are the people that can stay humble before the Lord. He will confound the people in the world that seemingly have it made. Those are the same people you always read about in the National Enquirer. You know, the marriages that don't work and the drug habits. They're all lookin' for peace, but don't have it. Then there's these humble believers that the Lord is raisin' up. Those are the ones He's usin'. The Lord really laid that scripture on me when I started with this band. Everything that we've been allowed to do has been because of the Lord's doin', not because of our own efforts. Like the p.a. We were lookin' for a p.a. and a guy came in and we had the p.a."

"I was at the end of my rope, 'cause we had made our demo and I thought they sounded pretty good. No record labels were interested and then it fell into the hands of Refuge. That had nothing to do with us. They got in with us and we got in with them. The Lord put everything together for us. And now the Cornerstone thing."

**It was kind of interesting today in that the Lord allowed me to be with you when that kid said, "Wow. You're, like better than Yngwie." and all this. You're gonna hear kids that say, "You're the best in the world." It was neat to see your response to that and your humbleness.

"I guess about musicianship...I would be lying to say I haven't acquired some musicianship, but I was raised with a musical upbringing. It's no big deal. You could take a monkey and, if you trained him long enough, you could wrap its fingers around a guitar, ya know? Anybody could learn to do it. It's just the Lord, ya know? The Lord gives, but the Lord can also take away.

"If my attitude about my guitars blew up, ya know, I could slam my hand in a car door and lose a couple of fingers. The Lord could allow that to happen. Life is such a fragile thing. I'm reminded of that constantly. We were driving home from practice last week and a car by the highway was in flames, man. Black smoke was pouring down the road and you could feel the heat from a quarter mile away. It was like, 'Wow! Disaster!'

"The Lord can require your life at any moment. You don't know when your number's up. You think you're young now, but who knows how much time you have left? You could walk out in the street and get run over by a truck and that's it. Then you're standin' before your Maker. We see that so often.

"I played a concert and we were preaching the Lord and we were talking about, 'Make that decision tonight! Don't put it off.' After the show, an 11-year old boy walked out of our concert and he got run over. That was the last thing...We hope that he made his decision that night. It's so important to know the Lord now."

**How old are all you guys?

"Pretty old."

"I feel young," says Scott.

"I feel young, but I was playing rock and roll before it was metal."

**Where have you guys been playin' and how's it been goin'?

"We played at Cornerstone," replies Scott. "I think they really liked us. We played at our church, Calvary Temple. They really backed us up. We've seen some good response."

"We're hoping that this'll blossom into some relationships with booking agents," says Rex, "and getting out and playing with some of the other bands and get on a tour somewhere. We wanna play. We don't know where the Lord will allow us to do that."

**Do you guys have jobs?

"Yeah. We all work for a living," says Scott. "I'm a lab technician with Dexter/Midland Coatings Company. Inside your pop can is a coating. I have to make sure it's the right quality. It's a nice job. I like it. I'd like to do this (play music) full-time for the Lord.

When He says it's time, we'll do it. I think a lot of bands, especially if they're younger--maybe younger than us--they would say, 'Wow! We played Cornerstone. Let's all go on tour! You see, you have to follow the Lord in every step of the way, otherwise it's so easy to get off-track. I've been prayin', like four months for this one concert. That the Lord would fill that room with His presence and that God would just touch people's hearts. It takes prayer."

"I teach music and get into producing if possible," says Rex. "I'm going to co-produce an album, hopefully. I want to find another Christian rock band to produce. I'm meeting the long-range goal I have right now: I'm staying active with Whitecross."

**Tell me about Fierce Heart.

"When I got out of school I got into that band and we got signed to Atlantic and the record came out and they didn't promote it. So, it sold about 30,000 copies and they dropped the band.

"I learned a lot about the music industry and met some people that way. I might do another project with 'em. It'll really be like a solo project. Whitecross is my number one priority. The ministry comes first.

"We got some good reviews in the media."

**Were you a Christian at that time? Did you write any of the songs?

"I wrote the music and I went along with some lyrics that I probably shouldn't have gone along with."

**You wouldn't recommend to readers to go search it out, find it and buy it?

"No. I will say this. This may be controversial. This guy here (Scott) may disagree with me, but I feel that as a musician, we're involved with a musical art form.

"I feel that we should be aware of what the rest of the kids on the block are up to. If that means listening to the latest Motley Crue album, I'll listen to it. I'm speaking strictly as an artist. Also, I don't have any problem keeping the music separate from the message. If there are believers who have a problem listening to that kind of music, 'cause it makes 'em wanna party, then I would say, 'Stay away from it.' As an artist, I like to be aware of what's happening."

"I will disagree with that," interjects Scott, "since everyone is not called to be that way. I'm just called different. I listen to Glenn Kaiser. He's been my hero."

"Scott has developed his singing talent in somewhat of a musical vacuum. I think that's really cool, because he already has a very unique-sounding voice.

"People go, 'Oh, how'd you learn how to sing like Ratt?' He didn't. He's just had his own talent."

Whitecross cont'd next page

Whitecross cont'd

"I've never listened to Ratt," admits Scott. "I don't know what they sound like."

"I think that's really neat, because it gives him his own identity."

**I can understand that for you. It's like if I was a guitarist and you were my rhythm guitarist, I'd listen to the new Van Halen and go, "Check this out. Look how he's doing this arpeggio here. See that? Here, I'll rewind it. Let's incorporate that in a song this way." Something like that.

"If you were a visual artist, working with paint or something like that, you'd wanna know what's been done before. It's like history. I don't wanna know only the history of Christians. I wanna know what the rest of the world's been up to. Both the good and the bad. Music is kind of the same way.

"We're in this seriously. We're not in it for money or fame."

"I think the Lord's really gonna keep building us up," says Scott. "We started with a crummy guitar player, which was myself, and a tamborine. The Lord started and has brought us this far. It is very evident that He's done all the work through us."

**I think your music is really hook-laden. I think you guys could be really popular.

"Well, I think we should be commercially accessible. I like that kind of music myself. It's not selling out, because it's the kind of music I like. As long as it's got serious guitar work in it.

"Kind of my joke is: 'Progressive music is for musicians who can't come up with a good hook in 4/4.'

"There's groups that do it well, but I see so many groups that, you hear the song and it starts out and the riff really isn't happening, then it changes into a different time signature. 'Let's try this one for awhile,' and try to keep your attention moving and try to de-focus away from the lack of hook and ability. There's good bands, like Rush, but there's a thousand Rush-clone bands that are trying to do the same thing, but not as well."

**How can the reader of Heaven's Metal pray for ya?

"You can pray for each one of us, that we continue to follow the Lord very closely. That Whitecross stays right in the center of God's will. That's our biggest prayer, that we're doing what God wants us to do.

"That we would know the Lord's will and seek that out and keep on growing. If we know His will, He'll take care of everything else.

"We would like to get out more and be able to minister. That we could be used more as a tool."

Metal Tracks

Power Promotion, a European company, is starting up a new label for white metal. Their first product is going to be a compilation album of the leading and hopeful bands in Christian metal! They're open to all kinds, between hard rock and thrash. They can offer guaranteed promotion and distribution all over Europe, because they are working with the leading European distribution company, as well as being in contact with all the major record companies.

So, will the best bands please come forward (The ones without a contract or without European license) and send 'em their promo material and demos.

Bands: Remember to be wise. Check this out real good before you sign anything!

Write Power Promotion @ PO Box 26 18 02, 2000 Hamburg 26, W. Germany. Their telephone # is 040/ 219 31 57.

Pure Metal News! The **Heavy Righteous Metal** compilation album should be out in October. Tempest's debut album, **A Coming Storm**, is due out at the same time. Saint will be entering Grand Slam Studios in October for a hopeful Nov/Dec release. Bride will be going into the studio in early November to begin work on their second album, which is tentatively titled **Out For Blood**. Dale tells me that the new songs are tons better than the ones found on **Show No Mercy**. They will hire an outside producer for this one, but Dale will still have a hand in as co-producer. "We've been having intense rehearsals preparing for the studio. We hope we have your prayers as we try to follow our calling." Bride = Be Ready If Death Enters!

Zion has just finished a 4-song demo called **Thunder From The Mount**. The Lord has had a lot of victories over the devil and his forces in completing this project. Rex Scott, Zion's lead vocalist, has told me story after story of how the Lord came through during car breakdowns, financial problems and other seeming disasters. Praise God for His victory! David Zaffiro produced this demo.

A Christian thrash metal band from San Antonio needs a bass player. The band used to be called Sons Of Thunder. Now it's Burneages. John Schwartz, the guitarist, has played for Roxalt and Redeemer, which included Mike Connell on drums (who later formed TNK). If you're interested in playing bass for them, write 'em @ PO Box 199, Adkins TX 78101.

K-TEL Records Presents: Christian Heavy Metal! Can ya believe it? Steve Streiker tells me it's for real. It's supposed to have Bloodgood,

WHITE
CROSS

New from

Pure Metal :

Music to tear

the roof off.





Wendy and Glenn at Cornerstone '87. Photo by Dan Stawski.

Rez

Glenn Kaiser and I had the chance to talk and do the following interview at Cornerstone. He was truly being a faithful servant by doing the interview, for he was wiped out and would much rather have been sleeping than talking into a tape recorder. This interview is just one example of Glenn being obedient to what God has called him to: serving others.

****Glenn, where do you fit in the body of Christ? What's your role?**

"Well, I'm a pastor. I'm a husband and a father, an evangelist. Those are some of my gifts and callings, duties and responsibilities. Really, I'm a brother. I'm just another guy."

****Where do you see Rez in the body of Christ?**

"Rez is an interesting thing. When the Lord put the band together initially, the vision that he gave me for the band was to be evangelistic, but it was also a broader vision than that even before the first notes had been played in rehearsal.

"Obviously, if you're a Christian band, a lot of Christians are gonna show up at your concerts. In which case, they are in need in a lot of areas. So, you have to speak life to them. There are non-Christians, of course, and they need to find Jesus. So, we're preaching the

gospel and making disciples. It's a dual thing for the band. I find, more and more as we're growing in Christ, I hope and I believe...not only the witness, but with the level of depth of our lyrics...I believe we're now moving in more of a 'teaching phase'.

"I think we have all along, but I think now more than ever we're trying to deliver certain words from God, certain messages to both Christians and non-Christians. A lot of the songs I write are written on a dual plane. They're not just for Christians or they're not just for non-Christians.

"A lot of the songs we've written through the years are two-dimensional in scope. I write them purposely that way, so they can be taken either way. They can be very Biblical and really minister to you. So that's Rez. Rez is not just an evangelistic band nor is it just a band for Christians. I think teaching. It says, 'Teaching and admonishing one another through psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.'"

****Elaborate a little on the venues you've played in and the changes you've made in that area.**

"When the band started there was not a Christian music scene. There were only about a half a dozen artists, if that. The reason that we played for more Christians back then is there wasn't very many Christians around. Of course, evangelism has never been a minor thing for us. It's ultimately a focal point for what the band does and is.

"It's not an either-or-thing. It's to everybody, whoever comes. It's just like Jesus. He ministers to the need of the person. Whoever they are, wherever they're at with Him, or wherever they're not at.

"Back then, there were no Christian concerts as such, so we saw more non-Christians. I told the guys in the band years ago, 'Just the fact that we're Christians and we play a style of music that the people like, we're going to see more and more Christians show up at the concerts.' As more young people get saved, this whole contemporary movement has started up in the church. We're gonna see more and more Christians showing up.

"As we've grown spiritually we've been able to write about a lot of different issues and hopefully come into greater levels of depth. In this process, we've talked and prayed. You know, there's a whole group of people out there that aren't gonna hear anything about a Christian concert either. Years ago they wouldn't know that Rez existed. Now a lot of them still don't know that Christian music exists. If they do, they don't wanna be around it either. So, what do you do? You have to go to them where they are, which means playing clubs.

"We've played some clubs, but we've learned that: #1) To really get into the clubs where

people are gonna sit and listen--not just the little dive joints where people get loaded and don't know what's goin' on. The clubs where people listen and pay you respect and hear what you have to say--is to get a secular contract and, not just any secular contract is gonna help. If they don't pay you enough money, then there's no real commitment on the label's part to promote the record. If they don't have enough money to sink in to your production costs so that they're almost forcing themselves to really promote the album to at least re-coup whatever they put into it. It's a little bit like, 'I got a book in the library.' It's not just a matter of getting a secular contract. It's a matter of getting a good one and I'm talking financially good. That's the way it is. The more you put into it, the more you gotta put into it to make sure it sells and it's out there and promoted right. In that case, you may have a book in the library with thousands of other books, but when you walk in the door, right on the counter there's a display about your book. Then all of a sudden people become aware of who you are and what you're putting out there is available.

"At that point, those clubs that I'm speaking of--where people come, sit and listen and absorb these new bands and get to know 'em. There's a whole circuit of clubs like that all over the US. You can't get into those clubs unless you're a band that has signed that kind of contract that is getting that kind of promotional push from the label. If that happens, you'll see us in more clubs. If that doesn't happen, then we'll probably re-sign with a Christian label and we'll just keep on doing what we've been doing. That's the door that God opened and He closes the other and that's that. It's more a matter of praying and being practical. It's realizing that where the people are: we need to go. We know clearly how to get there. We know how it works. We also know that it's gotta be entirely up to God. This last year and a half, we've spent a lot of time writing and praying. A new album is right around the corner. I cannot tell you what label we're gonna be on. It could be a Christian or a secular label. I don't really know. So that's how that whole situation looks to us. It's not just playing clubs, it's playing in places where people will really listen and where we can go out afterwards and meet folks and build a relationship with non-Christians. Over a period of time, they're gonna hear it. They're gonna hear it from the albums. They're gonna see it in our countenance. After a set you walk out and sit down and talk with 'em. That doesn't happen in the secular world. When we go into clubs, people's mouths drop open. They know. They know after three songs what we're doin'. It's amazing."

**Tell me a wild story or a praise report.

"One thing that was pretty amazing: I just did

a press conference earlier with quite a few guys. At the very end one of the guys stuffed a check in my hand for the Cornerstone Festival. Here's a guy from the media and he doesn't make a lot of money. We lose money on Cornerstone Festival every year. Hopefully we're losing less and less every year. One of these years hopefully we'll break even. Here's a guy that comes out of nowhere and says, 'Here.'

"This morning a guy came up to me and said he'd become a Christian at a Rez concert about four or five years ago and just wanted to thank us for the concert the other night and for sharing and so forth. People come up and say, 'You're the reason that I'm a Christian today', and they've been following the Lord for these four or five years. I'm going, you know, 'What more could anybody give me? What more could I ever give to anybody than the opportunity to really know Jesus? To really know God and be loved and forgiven and changed. What more can I do? What greater blessing than to know that I've been a part of somebody's salvation or somebody's discipling process?' That's life. That's it. All this other stuff we do, it's all peripherals."

**What's your upcoming praise album gonna be like?

"In leading of worship in Jesus People, in our church, our fellowship over the years, I've written a bunch of songs. Some of 'em are testimony-type songs, not straight-out praise and worship. Most of them are. They're a little bit more acoustically-oriented. Some are choruses that I'm sure will end up in a lot of very conservative churches and be sung. I think some of what I'm writing is gonna last for awhile in the body. Some of it is more of an personable expression of my love for the Lord. So it's all coming together on an album. The bass and the drums are done, that's all. There's a lot more that needs to be laid down on the tape machine. As my schedule permits and the schedule at Tone Zone permits, we'll go in there and finish it up."

**How can the reader of Heaven's Metal pray for ya?

"Well, pray that the Lord'll continue to help each individual in Rez to be obedient to the things that God has clearly spoken to us, not only for the ministry of the band, but for our personal lives. Underneath all of that, whatever it is that you identify us as, there are human beings, simple, flesh and blood people, who have the same struggles and temptations and trials as anybody else.

"Pray that we'll continue to be faithful to Jesus, faithful to the revealed will of God for our lives. Faithful to the obvious calling of God on our lives, regardless of anything, of Satan, of our old nature, of persecutions or hassles or what have you. Pray that we can

Record Reviews

Got your checkbooks ready? There's lots of bands to write to for demos in this issue.



Crucible - Snatched from the Fire

This band has the production and promotion down pat. The tape has a very good production, with the drums and lead guitar punching out in the mix.

Funny as it seems, this is the type of rock you might expect to hear in some of today's teenage movies.

The guitarist and drummer cash in on some of the standard power hooks in the metal genre. This music passes all the tests: hot leads; upfront drums; good rhythms; catchy hooks; real-life lyrics; vocals; variety from song to song yet a focused theme. That's pretty good for a band that sports a female vocalist. (I'm partial to male screamers).

I think Sheree Robertson has found a good niche for her voice. She doesn't screech, holding a good low-end, and yet reaches the highs.

The lyrics this band writes are a serious heart cry! From the compelling love for the lost in **Roll Away the Stone** to the gripping yet real terror in **Delirious**. The music isn't always matching the emotion of the lyrics, but it does rock heavy.

Highlights are: the lead solo in **I Want To Know**; the rhythm guitar all through the tape; and the packaging. It's an above-average tape that shows off some good musicianship.

For the tape, send \$9 to: Crucible, 1212 W. Cinnabar, Phoenix AZ 85021. You can get one of their t-shirts for \$10.

Lazarus - Breaking Into The Night

This is one of the tapes I picked up at Cornerstone, and I'm glad I did. It's mixed well and features a straight-ahead sound that will survive the competition in the metal jungle out there.

This 6-song tape starts off with a jolting thunder crash and the reverberated voice of Jesus saying, "I am the resurrection and the life./ He that believes in Me/ he will live./ Whosoever lives and believes in Me/ He will never die./ He will never die. He..." Then the guitars smash in and grind away. The vocals are being sung/yelled with authority and grit. This song, **Lazarus Come Forth**, definitely starts this hot tape off with a bang.

The song ends with more thunder and rain effects and melodically goes into the title track, which is a ballad/anthem calling us into the world. It incorporates good use of the guitar, with a finger picking ballad-type texture mixed with well-timed chopping rhythms and finished off with fast and frantic notes.

We Rock is an all-out rock ballad, which lyrically opposes Satan and the powers of darkness. There's some really good leads in this one too.

Holy is Your Name is a worship song of the Psalm 150 order. Lazarus is shouting praises to the Lord with all their might.

The chorus is a glorious proclamation to the Lord: Holy, Holy, Holy is Your Name/ Let all creation now proclaim/ The glory of His Majesty/ We lift You up for all to see. It's a great worship song that very directly glorifies our Lord with wonderful music.

The Battle's Raging is another metal anthem to encourage us--the army of the Lord. There's an awesome chorus that feeds our spirits and minds a strong Word: "Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world."

Lights Out closes off this metal onslaught of a tape with a direct plea to those held by the devil. It's a blunt, prophetic statement to those that are lost. This is a killer tape to give to an unsaved friend (or enemy for that matter).

This band doesn't have the looks, but they've got the sound. This one's worth picking up. You can get it for \$7 by writing Lazarus @ PO Box 1873, Martinsburg WV 25401

White Throne reports that Mark Buchanon, the lead singer, has left the band. Hopefully we'll be hearing more from Lazarus in the future, for they think their next project will blow this one away.

Divine Right - Tongues of Fire

Divine Right is another one of the killer demos I picked up at Cornerstone. This 7-song tape was a one-man project by Kevin Brandow. It's hard to believe that one man made all of this big sound.

He did a great job, delivering a fine serving of melodic/commercial metal. The strong point here is his songwriting. Each composition has a good melody and a definite direction. I'll rate it as a couple notches below excellent.

The production is good enough to show the potential of Divine Right, but the performance and the songs are so good, you're left wishing a \$50,000 budget would remix it and lay it down on vinyl. Kevin knows what he's doing in the studio and this tape proves it. A major label could pick Divine Right up and go places.

The lyrics are straightforward about Jesus, Who He is and what He has done and is doing for us. There's not a dud song on the tape, so why hesitate? Send \$5 plus \$1 shipping to Divine Right Sound Studio, PO Box 655, Rensselaer NY 12144

You'll definitely be hearing more from this band.

Hellfire - Death To Death

Jeru-Slam Records present this piece of thrash metal. Their name matches most of the lyrical content.

If you subscribe to Z.O.T.T. (Zine Of The Times), you may be wondering why you haven't received an issue lately. This band may well be the reason. David Joo, affectionately known as "Squid", is the editor. He's had to spend some time cramming 17 songs on this tape.

Production is awful, but that's genuine thrash for ya! Hardcore Christian lyrics rip and snort and are even more aggressive than the music. The song titles alone tell you where Squid and cousin Robert Wolff are comin' from: **Abolish Legal Murder, Satan's Children, If Tomorrow Comes, Hopeless Child, Burn The Porno Magazines, Hellfire, Throw The Rope, Death To Death, God's Not A Joke, Jesus Is The Only Way, P.W.C. (Pray Without Ceasing)** and **We Need Jesus**.

The FBI may be after Hellfire soon when a rash of porno-shop arson points to Hellfire's lyrics: "And are you sick of all the garbage on the magazine rack? Then wake up and face the fact/ And flick, flick, flick, flick your bick." (From **Burn The Porno Magazines**. If they go to court, they can just hire Julio Rey and The Lead to deliver a high speed defense.

You can get this tape for \$4 in the US and \$6 overseas. Pay to: David Joo, PO Box 33, Stirling City CA 95978. T-Shirts (must be rad!) are \$8.50 in US and \$10.50 overseas.



Red Sky - Time Is Running Out

"Red Sky is a band that hopes to inspire other Christian rockers and reach many unsaved listeners with their brand of progressive fusion rock", says guitarist Craig Erickson. Don't let the progressive fusion label scare you off, this stuff is hard driving metal. It just happens to be played by a skilled guitarist who is influenced by Phil Keaggy, Bloodgood, Steve Morse, and Alan Holdsworth, among others.

Craig is the closest I've heard to an Yngwie in the Christian realm. He teaches guitar in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Red Sky currently consists of Craig on guitar (He did the bass and vocals as well on this tape.) and Jerry Loy on drums.

This tape is undergoing some re-mixing before its release, so it should sound killer by then. The production is a little weak on the rough mix I have, but the performance is outstanding. If Red Sky had a great lead singer, this band would be absolutely killer! Any takers out there?

Guitarists will definitely want this tape. It'll cost \$4 and will be recorded on chrome tape. Send check or money order to: Bob Hopkins of North Star Productions, RR #1, Box 220, Mokena IL 60448. For band correspondence, write Craig @ 114 27th Street Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids IA, 52403.

Taker

Of the demos I picked up at Cornerstone, this one has the best production. These four songs probably cost \$500 each to produce. They really rip and crack the air with a crisp, clean sound.

Taker has talent. Of these four songs, they show off four different styles--without departing from each other too much. **Open Your Heart** has a

Taker cont'd next page

Taker cont'd

British metal guts and power bass, while carrying a commercial feel to the vocals. The last four chords sound like an intro to a thrash song. **He Is The Light** has a melodic intro on electric guitar that wails, yet has a tremendous amount of feeling--similar to a Michael Schenker lead. The vocals are sung the same way, as the singer slowly keeps his voice in the high range. It sounds similar to Malachai and old Judas Priest. "Wa-a-a-ah!!!"

Yesterday, Today And Forever shows their ballad side, which is pulled off skillfully and with impact. It ends with a killer double lead. **The 11 O'Clock News** ends the tape with a military anthem feel and a good crunchy rhythm. It's good cereal for your morning get up and go!

The overall lyrical theme of the tape is: Jesus is King!

This tape really delivers its metal. Where many demos simply exhibit potential, this one shows that the talent is already here! Overall, this melodic heavy metal tape is one of the best demos of the year.

I'm not sure if this demo is available for sale. I get the impression that it's strictly for record company and media use, because it's recorded on a 60-minute TDK tape. You can write them and beg them to sell you a copy at: Taker, PO Box 5165, Woodbridge VA 22194.

Vigilance

Here's a metal band from the Bellevue, Washington area. They're "all over the board--as far as metal goes," says manager Rich Halstrom, "but we're not mellow like Stryper is. We're everything but that."

It's getting airplay on Seattle's KCMS, as well as West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. You can get their tape for \$5.50 plus \$1 postage from: Vigilance Productions, Suite 2187, 1420 N.W. Gilman Blvd. Issaquah WA 98027. For booking info, call (206) 391-3576.

Love Street

This commercial rock band has some hooks! They're working on a 4-song demo that should be ready and packaged by the time you read this.

They have a really good commercial sound. Their vocal harmonies are tight and the guitar rhythms are as hook-laden as anything Nightranger has put out. Check 'em out.

Write to: John Mauk @ 885 E. High St. Bryan OH 43506.

The Noiz Boyz - Neighborhood Rock

This band's name conjures up an image for me of a party band: a bunch of guys that like to ham it up and have a good time. That's just what they sound like too: a Poison or early Van Halen having a good time and getting their audiences to have fun too.

This 5-song tape starts off with the guys foolin' around in the studio and then kicks in to five songs of really good metal. The production is muddy, which holds them back musically, but the fun still shines through.

You can have it for \$4.50. Make checks payable to: Robert Wells, PO Box 63043, Wetmore TX 78263.

This band was only together for two weeks before this project, but, judging from the licks thrown in, these guys are musicians. You'll probably hear more from them in the future.

Armada

This metal band from Dale Thompson's neck of the woods rocks steady. They've got a tight sound that's heavy and piercing. For a band that averages an age of 18, they don't sound it.

This is Tim Morrow's band. Tim played guitar for Bride for a short time. He's got a good voice for metal too. I think they're hot. If I was puttin' together a compilation album full of demos, I'd put one of these songs on it.

If you'd like to write them for information on how to get ahold of some of their music, their address is: Steve Curtsinger, 7100 Dittman Dr, Louisville KY 40219.

Arsenal

This five-piece band are going after a metal sound that isn't too far from a Girlschool or a Barnabas sound. You guessed it, they sport a female lead singer--who does a good job. The songs seem to be written to cater to her voice, which is why I like Arsenal better than most other female-singing metal bands. Often one of these bands have music that seems to be written for the low, growling voice of a male and ends up being sung by a female lead singer.

The metal here is pretty strong. The guitars and drums stay active with a straight-ahead metal sound. The three songs here are pretty fast and each contain some decent leads.

Arsenal is: Christine Scott on vocals; "Joshua" Miller on lead guitar; Wayne Scott on rhythm guitar; Dave "J.D." Roestler on bass; and "Sparky" Donahue on drums.

You can write them @ 2230 Nursery Road #I-108, Clearwater FL 33546.

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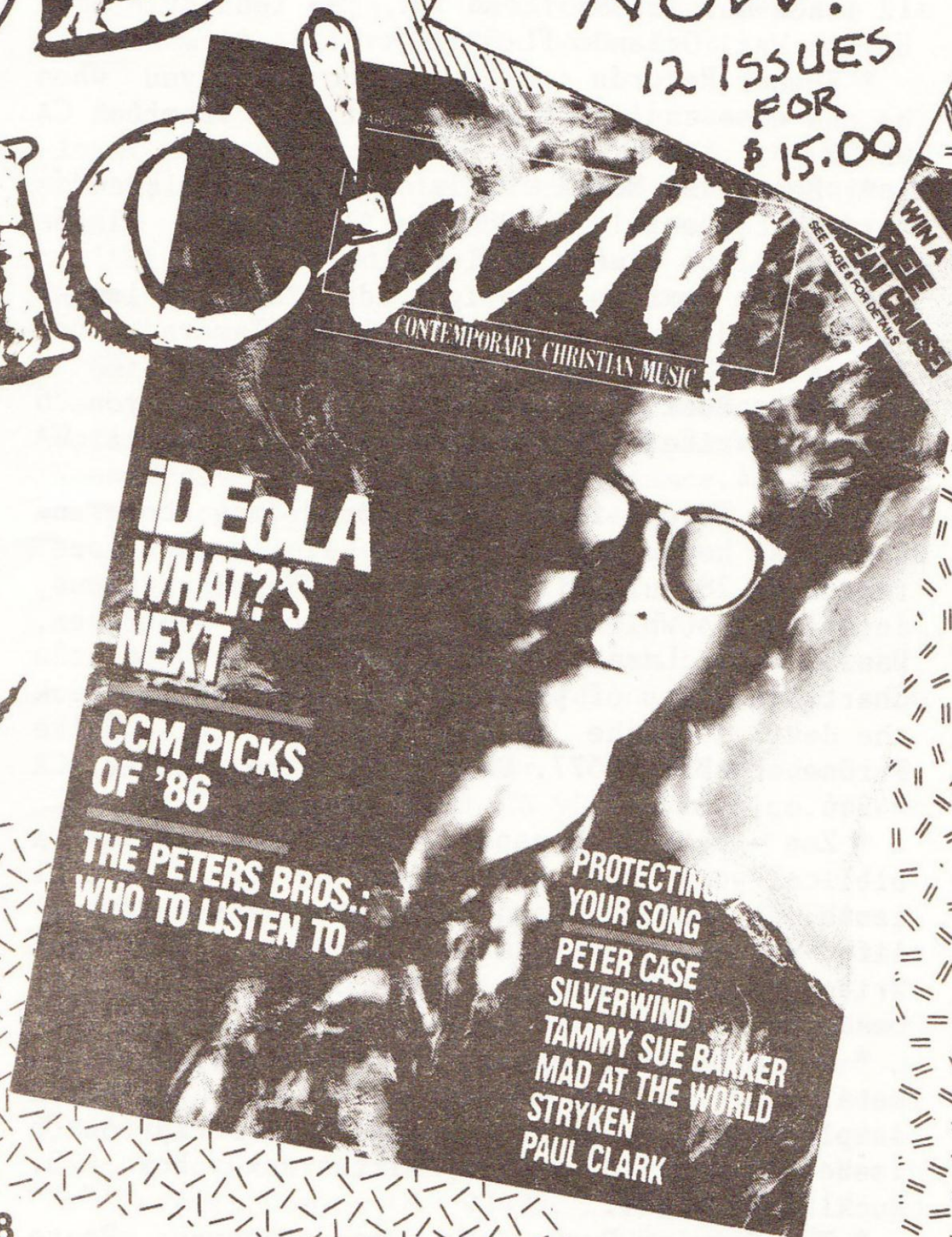
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* **Rizzen Roxx** is downright edifying! 6 issues = \$6. Send to: Judd Harper, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **Risen Rock**. A rad rag. \$3 gets you 6 issues. Write: PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **White Throne** is an underground mag covering Christian heavy metal. Issue #2 is now out, featuring 28 full-size pages of: News, Reviews, Interviews (White Cross, Bloodgood, Stryken, Daniel Band, Lazarus), Demo reviews, a Reader's Chart, and lots of pictures. Guaranteed to kick the devil in the face! Send \$2 to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept Z, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **Zoe** - A monthly paper. Each issue studies a biblical word and correlates it to a social issue, a Bible character, someone's personal life, and some Christian rock lyrics. It's free! Write: Donny F. Moore, 2323 East Ave. "J", Omaha NE 68110.

* **God's Banging Banner**. Kansas' only Christian metal mag. Lots of underground groups. \$1 for a sample issue. \$5.50 for a year's subscription (6 issues). Mail to: Nick Wittstruck, Box 428, Bucklin KS 67834.

* **The Burning Bush**. c/o Jason Bauman, Route #1, Mineral Point WI 53565. Issues of this publication include interviews, reviews, and news on all types of Christian rock (new-wave, punk and metal). It is a bi-monthly mag and is \$3 per 6-issue term. Checks and Money Orders payable to Jason Bauman.

* **WVLJ** - Send your demos for airplay! Send to: WVLJ Radio, Resurrection Sounds, RR 1, Box 121, Monticello IL 61856.

* **PURE ROCK**--for the serious fan of Christian rock. Each issue is packed full with the latest Christian rock, hard rock, and heavy metal news, exclusive interviews, new album updates and reviews, and much more. A one-year subscription is only \$6.95. Send check or money order to: PURE ROCK, 88 High Street, Ipswich MA 01938. Call (617) 356-5361.

* **Light Attack**. A fanzine written in German for people in Switzerland and Germany. Write Urs Staedeli, Hammerliweg 2, CH-4415 Lausen, Switzerland.

* Germany's first Christian metal paper, '**Blood Sacrifice - Jesus Metal War!**', is calling bands to contribute bios, photos and salvation testimonies by band members for future issues. If you want your music being heard in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, send your demos for review! Anything being sent in will be reviewed and advertised for! Send your stuff to (Air Mail, pls.): "Heaven's Attack!" (Metal Mission), PO Box 22, 8501 Burgthann 1, W. Germany. All contributing bands will receive free Air Mail subscriptions to "Blood Sacrifice!"

* **Righteous Rock**, an hour-long Christian metal radio show, needs help in re-stocking their record library. All LP's, CD's and tapes, along with bio's, tour schedules and other news items about qualified groups will be sincerely appreciated. This show is on the air across America via Z-Rock. Send to: Righteous Rock, PO Box 949, Woodacre CA 94973.

* **Japan Praise Ministry** is undertaking a "Stryper tract project." It's a tract, written in Japanese, that has photos and testimonies of each member of Stryper. If you'd like to support this effort, you can send donations to: Japan Praise Ministry, c/o Darla J. Wachter, 224 West 5th, Mankata MN 56001. (507) 345-3797.

If you want to contact the ministry directly, write them at: 206 Nasukawa Bldg, 3-5-10 Komagome, Toshimaku, Tokyo 170, Japan.

* **S.O.S. Sects, Occultism, Satanism**. A file to read and pass out to others. Send \$1.30 for copies and postage. (80 cents per each additional file.) Send to Elisabeth Bieber, 146 Route de Polygone, 67100 Strasbourg, France.

* **Abortion Is Murder!** Help stop it by checking city, county, high school and college libraries and making sure they have a good selection of Pro-Life books. (Write to Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, 4249 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis MN 55409 and ask for their "Directory of Pro-Life Information." They have everything!)

* **Embryo Arts** has a catalog of rare, hard-to-find and imported Christian music. Write them for their catalog or, if you're in a band, for info on how to distribute your product through them. Embryo Arts, Nonnentalaan 52, B-3800 Sint-Truiden, Belgium.

* **Adonai Metal Rock Radio Show** is looking for an "American Biblebanger, who would be ready to interview 'big' groups" (like BC, Bloodgood...). Daniel will play those interviews on his show. Also, if someone could xerox articles on Christian metal bands published in secular magazines, he could use that too. Send to: Daniel Baillod, Fregimont, 47 360 Prayssas, France.

* **Christian rockers:** You Can rock for The Rock! Join Real Rock Fellowship and help destroy the controversy surrounding Christian rock. (Romans 14:16) Write to Real Rock Fellowship, 547 Kenora Dr, Millersville MD 21108.

* **Distribution in Germany/ Austria/ Switzerland!** This company is interested in all kinds of Christian rock/ hardrock/ metal/ punk/ experimental, etc. They can distribute your albums, tapes or CD's. Interested? Contact Stephans-Buchhandlung, Wolfgang Mittelstadt, Stephanstraße 6, 8700 Würzburg, W. Germany.

* **Revelation** is a mag starting up this January in New Zealand. Would you like to write articles, poetry, reviews or do artwork, comics, etc. for it? They would certainly appreciate your help. Send all work and/or correspondence to: Antony Ruddenklau, Freepost 777, Revelation, PO Box 209, Kaiapoi, New Zealand.

* **R.O.C.K.I.N.** - Rock Of Christ The King International. Covers the whole spectrum of today's God rock. Guaranteed to raise a religious eyebrow or two! Sample issue: \$1.50. Subscriptions: 6 issues - \$6; 12 issues - \$11. Write checks to Michael A. Miller c/o R.O.C.K.I.N. PO Box 3196, Baltimore MD 21228.

Simson cont'd

"Not at all. Sweden is a free land, so we can do what we want."

**Do they interfere with you at all?

"No. Sometimes they who arrange our concerts get money for doing cultural activities. That's all."

**How can the readers of Heaven's Metal pray for you?

"Pray that we get more contacts for concerts in Sweden and abroad. Pray that economy will not be an obstacle for what we will do. Pray that people will be saved through our work."

If you'd like to write to this up-and-coming band, and/or order their album, write to: Simson, Tegelslagareg 17, S-681 00 KRISTINEHAMN, Sweden. For album or cassette, send \$12 in money order.

That concludes the Swedish metal report. Don't be surprised if you hear of more bands erupting out of this creative hotbed.

"...And nothing can stop it from rolling on/ The darkness must run for the light of the Son. We're makin' music in the fourth dimension/ 'Cause we're makin' way for the King of: Holy metal, calls for attention/ holy metal, clear and bright/ holy metal, music in a higher dimension."

If you'd be willing to xerox copies of a Heaven's Metal brochure/poster and hang them up around your town, record store, etc., contact me and I'll send you a master that you can make copies off of.

Metal Tracks cont'd

Barren Cross, Stryken and a host of others on it. Stay tuned for details.

Austin rockers, MISL, are currently changing personnel. Two members, Dan Poole (drums) and Greg Hayward (guitar) are heading to college at East Texas State in Commerce TX. Greg has already found a skilled vocalist, so MISL should be in action soon. The remaining members in Austin will be forming new bands shortly.

Believer is a thrash band from Lebanon PA (at least this one is). There's another in Oregon that plays a real intense melodic metal. Anyway, Brian NiCarry, ex-Messiah Prophet rhythm guitarist, is handling lead vocals for this East Coast group.

Gardian has officially become affiliated with Sanctuary. Due to this, they will appear on the **California Metal** album alongside Barren Cross, Neon Cross, Deliverance and Vengeance. It will be produced by John and Dino Elefante. It should be released in September, so as soon as you're done reading this--go order it!

As far as release dates for Gardian's and Barren Cross's Enigma debuts, look for a December release. A Barren Cross/ Gardian tour may soon follow.

Gardian's new address is: 1525 Aviation Blvd. Ste. B277, Redondo Beach CA 90278. Office phone is (213) 379-2338.

100% Proof's second album, **Power And The Glory**, has been re-pressed by Larry Miller's Kosher Records. Copies of this limited edition in yellow vinyl are available thru Kosher (@ \$9.50 plus \$2 postage handling and insurance) or by ordering through Spring Arbor at your local Christian bookstore. It's genuine British metal. Crunch, crunch, crunch. Write Larry @ 900 North "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436. The stock # to order this from Spring Arbor is 000-673-5371.

The First Annual H.I.S. Festival went off without a hitch (unless you call a power failure during the first three band's performances a hitch) on June 27th. Messiah Prophet, Holy Right, Soldier, Contagious, Zelus, Cross, Eternal Ryte, Gardian and Barren Cross all rocked to an appreciative audience of 1,000.

If you thought that was a killer lineup, you haven't heard of The **Metal Mardi Gras** yet. It's a ten-hour metal fest/ fund-raiser for Sanctuary. The lineup is: Bloodgood; Barren Cross; Neon Cross; Soldier; Crossforce; Gardian; Eternal Ryte; Vengeance; Deliverance; Thunder Calling; Malachia; and Hero.

It's gonna be held in the 7-11 Olympic Velodrome at Cal State Dominguez Hills near Long Beach on September 12th. Heaven's Metal will be there to report on this mega metal event!!!

Metal Tracks cont'd

Inner Lite has ended as we know it. The term "break-up" doesn't seem fit for a Christian band, does it? Each member is moving on to other things--all of which are ministries.

Stryper played in New York's Madison Square Garden and at the prestigious Red Rocks in Colorado on the final leg of their **To Hell With The Devil** tour this summer. Included on the bill were TNT and Loudness. Their **Honestly** video has just made MTV rotation.

Jeff Spencer, the artist who has designed the album cover artwork for Pure Metal's releases, has left Refuge Music **Group** to form his own company. It will be called **Sudden Images**. He recently finished work on the new albums by Whitecross and Trytan. If you can use his excellent services, contact Jeff at Sudden Images, 981 Riverview Dr, Walnutport PA 18088 or call "(215) 767-1629.

Australia's Jacob's Well recently opened for Stryper. Want a copy of their debut tape, **Fight For Paradise**? Send A\$16.85 for US residents; A\$16.05 New Zealand; and A\$17.30 for UK and England. (Yes that's Australian dollars, not US. The band loses money converting your currency, so convert your currency into an International Money Order in A\$ at your local bank.) Send to: Glen Cannon, 6 Moflin Rd, Elizabeth Grove, South Australia, 5112.

Stephanie Ann Loro rocks for the Lord...on a piano. This rocker from Phoenix has been opening for local Christian metal bands, such as: Crucible; Haven; and Holy Smoke.

She's a one person band with heavy keyboards, drums and Jethro Tull-like leads on the flute."

Interested in a female Elton John? Send \$8 to Stephanie @ 5523 North 62nd Dr. Glendale AZ 85301.

Valor's tape, **Masquerade**, is out. It's hot and heavy! David Johnson, of White Throne, brought several copies of the tape to Mike Delaney's Rad Rocker's Emporium, put a sign that said "Speed Metal," and it was sold out in a flash. It's a radical tape. Get yours for \$5, plus \$1 for postage (Overseas = \$2). Make checks and MO to Golgatha Ent. and send to: Valor, PO Box 1653, San Leandro CA 94577. For any other info, call (415) 430-0665 and leave a message.

Rez, who for 13 years have had no personnel changes, now announce the departure of bassist Jim Denton and the arrival of Roy Montroy. Roy has written the "metallier" tunes from Rez, such as the Van Halen-ish **White Noise**.

Rez says: "His zany stage antics as well as deep love for sledgehammer rock will bring a dimension to our records and live performances that makes this 'page' in the band's history an exciting one to turn."

Jim Denton is leaving Rez to pursue a teaching ministry that the Lord has led him to. The band has been praying about it for a long time now and all agree that the Lord is moving him on to another chapter in his adventure with Jesus.



Stryken recently carried a 14-foot cross into the outer court of San Antonio's Civic Center during a Motley Crue concert. Drummer Joey Knight had an armload of albums that he was giving out and all the guys were fully decked-out in their armor and witnessing about Jesus. Once they got inside the building, they were asked to leave with the cross. (Arthur Blessit would've loved it.) One by one they were arrested for their refusal to remove the cross and leave. Later on, near the paddy wagon outside, they discovered that the man in charge of the police force there that night was a Christian. He encouraged them in their stance and let them go.

I was watching TBN the other night and saw a long-haired person talking on the Praise The Lord show. I was surprised to realize that, "Hey! I never see long-haired guys on this show."

I listened to find out it was Ian Gillan, giving his testimony. Ian's real name is Jeff Fenholt. Jeff goes back to the roots of metal. He sang for Deep Purple back in the early seventies and the "Smoke On The Water" days. He sang and performed the part of Jesus in the concert Jesus Christ Superstar album and musical.

He sang on Black Sabbath's last album: **Born Again.**

He has an exciting story that ends up with him accepting Christ in the early eighties. He says he wishes he could say he did great after that, but he struggled and grew strong over a period of time as he surrendered to the Lordship of Christ.

He sang with Black Sabbath from 84-85 as a Christian! Can you believe that? He's not proud of it and he's serving the Lord full-on now. Praise God.

I'm going to try to set up an interview with Jeff in the future, so stay tuned.

Cornerstone was a blast! Four days of: good music; teaching; imaginary bus rides through the exhibition hall; camping out; outstanding fellowship; shopping for rare music; cool showers; meeting subscribers; riding imaginary horses Monty Python-style; press conferences; and worship. It's a killer vacation. Go next year and you'll make lots of friends.

The musical highlights were: Bloodgood's awesome set; Darrell Mansfield's set; Charlie Peacock's set; and DA's bizarreness.

Other metal acts there were: Whitecross; Rez; Daniel Band; The Lead; and Sacred Fire--you should've seen their moving rendition of **Waiting For The King**, as well as the dazzling bass riffs during the instrumental **Sacred Fire**.

Malachia has a new album, called **Red Sunrise**, which is being distributed by Regency Music (Who also distribute Trytan and Contagious). Malachia has shot a video for their ballad, **Lonely Is The Night**, which has aired a couple times on TBN's Real Videos.

Regency reports that Malachia is the first Christian metal band to receive airplay in the Soviet Union. They are going to tour in Northern Europe, Poland and Russia this fall! Praise the Lord!!! Let's add Malachia to our prayer lists.

Heaven's Metal can be ordered in bulks to give out to people, etc. You can get several copies of the next issue for 70 cents each. (Minimum of 10) Do you know someone who might like to advertise in Heaven's Metal or perhaps sell it in their store? Get 'em in contact with me.

Coming in the next issue: Big interviews with Darrell Mansfield; Bloodgood and some of the bands at the Metal Mardis Gras. Look for it in early November.

Aluminum

aluminum: a bluish silver-white malleable metallic element with good electrical guitar and thermal conductivity, high reflectivity, and resistance to old age that is the most abundant rock in the earth's crust occurring always in a combination of musical styles.

Refuge has released two good hard rock outfits on Dark Records: **Street Angel** and **First Degree**. Street Angel is a raw, street-rock band, with the energetic rawness of early U2 mixed with the poetic pop sounds of R.E.M. First Degree is a power-pop/stadium-rock band with lots of punch.

The Awakening

Reunion Records has released this latest project from Trevor Horn and Jon Anderson of Yes...Oh! I'm sorry. No, this is The Awakening, a new eccentric band from Canada.

They've got a sound very reminiscent of late Yes (their 90125 days). The Awakening incorporates progressive fusion with theatrical rock to create a real refreshing sound. While Yes punched on every level on 90125, The Awakening holds back, relying more on varying sounds than straight-ahead rocking.

There's some killer guitar work here in the screaming veign--enough to turn some heads when I played it over the sound system at the Christian bookstore I work at.

Check it out.

The Nation

The Nation is another progressive band new on the scene with a new demo tape out. Their sound is original, yet is not too far from the sounds of Elim Hall and late Rush. Maury Millican, the guitarist and vocalist of the group, leads the rock 'n' roll worship at my church, Heart Set Free, here in Austin. He's also a big Trytan fan.

You can pick up The Nation's 6-song demo on chrome tape for \$6 by writing 'em @ The NATION, 2904A University Ave, Austin TX 78705.

Urgent Cry

This band from Vandalia, Ohio has a good pop metal sound. They don't sound like anybody I can think of. How about the commercial leads and hooks of Bon Jovi mixed with the eclectic hard rock flair of In-3D, plus further complicated by the progressive time and percussion of Rush?

The lyrics are straight-forward, proclaiming Christ and the urgency to come under His grace before it's too late.

You can write and get information on ordering this well-produced and professionally-packaged 4-song tape @ 810 Foley Dr. Vandalia OH 45377. (513) 454-0249.



The Paul Q-Pek Band. Pictured l-r: Uncle Sammy, Michael Willoughby, Paul, Phillip Owens.

The Paul Q-Pek Band — Passion And Fear

The Paul Q-Pek Band is an exceptionally hot band from Austin TX. They play an original blend of eighties rock/ hard rock.

The heritage of this band is an interesting one: Paul and Uncle Sammy used to play together back in California in a Christian metal band called Frontrunner. At least 50 copies of their **Street Talk** single sold through the mail from Heaven's Metal (Sorry, all sold out--ed). Paul is also currently in another band that's made waves through the Christian music world--One Bad Pig. Uncle Sammy plays bass for another Christian metal band also. Sammy's mom wrote the poem **Tools Of Our Times** in Volume II #5. Kerry Crafton, the engineer of this tape, also produced the Pig album, as well as being the guitarist for Follower.

Paul's music and lyrics have made a great impact in the frequent live gigs they play here in Austin. They've also made appearances elsewhere. For instance, the lyrics to **It's The Realization** served as the gospel piece on the back cover of Heaven's Metal Vol II #3. This entire tape also was played over the sound system at the mainstage before Steve Taylor at Cornerstone this year. (Thanks Roger!)

This killer tape has four songs and two other things on it. The two "other things" are spoken/ a capella songs called **Mrs. Lowery** and **Boxes**.

Truth Be Told, a straight-ahead rocker, opens the tape with lots of energy. **Kingdom Come** is next, which exhibits creative artistic ability and right-on devotion to God.

"Sacrifice had its place in my life/ but I kept falling off the altar/ I know where I should be/ how come I am not there?/ keep me alive while I burn.

"One desire I have/ just one prayer/ The Kingdom Come."

Tear Down The Walls, the next song, is a moving ballad that could get airplay on most Christian radio stations.

The Healing closes the tape with a heavy message. It has an ethereal/ moody intro that sets the stage for the anguish of the sick and suffering theme of the lyrics. The song builds and builds and then erupts with a desperate cry to God for the healing of body, spirit, soul and mind.

The song shows off the very skilled drumming of Phillip Owens. There's also a killer guitar solo in the middle of the song, which is heavy and melodic--not unlike many of Glenn Kaiser's solos.

The Q-Pek Band has laid down a fine piece of chrome, but their prime focus now is their live shows. They play a smokin' two hour set of all originals. Right now, fortunately for us and unfortunately for most of you, their shows are a blessing for the Austin area only.

After playing **The Healing** in concert, Paul gives an invitation for prayers of forgiveness and healing of the whole person. The band stops playing, except for a programmed sequence on the synthesizer, and lines the stage for prayer, which lasts at least 20 minutes, "until everyone that comes up is prayed for."

If you'd like to listen to The Q-Pek Band, send \$5 plus \$1 postage to: Paul Q-Pek Band, 1701 Pine Knoll, Austin TX 78758.

If you live near a radio station that would be willing to play their tape, get 'em in touch with Paul.

Rez cont'd

continue to be a light that shines in dark places."

On Jim Denton's departure, Glenn said, "We've been praying for two years. This is an old, old thing that we didn't say anything to anybody about. We are very conservative. We take a long time to make moves. After a lot of prayer, it was quite clear that it was the Lord's will for Jim to go to Seminary to study. He's one of the deacons in our church. Also he's gettin' our curriculum together for our discipleship school. That's what he's doing. He's contemplated about it for a time and we have too. It's been about two years. The Lord bore witness. We prayed, we talked it out. The Lord really confirmed that it was His will and His time to do it.

"So, Roy Montroy, who'd written **White Noise** and **2000** and a lot of songs that Rez has done through the years...he's been in the community for about 14 or 15 years.

"He's quite a talented guitarist and bass player and not a bad keyboard player either. He and I write more and more together. The guy's really a serious rocker. So, the Lord just

Rez cont'd next page

Exhortation

"Study to show yourself approved," the Bible says. "All scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16)

We ought to radically study God's Word. So many of us, and I've been guilty of this too, read a couple of Proverbs or a chapter in Psalms and call that "studying God's Word."

Darrell Mansfield used to talk about the length of our "sword of the Spirit," correlating it to our study of the Word. If we read a few chapters a day with an alert mind, our sword would be long and good for battle. If we only read a couple of verses, our sword is about as long as a toothpick. When the devil comes against us that day, what are we gonna say? "Get away fella?" Satan can't harm us, unless God allows him to. The Lord is our strength, not our knowledge of the Word. But, the Word is our weapon and sustenance for life.

We ought to seriously study the Word. One way to start is to ask God, "Lord, speak to me in Your Word. Guide me with Your Spirit into the truth."

Start somewhere and read carefully all the way through. This will help you get an overall

picture of the passage. You will know the context that the individual verses are in.

Start again and look for repeating words and thoughts. Ask yourself questions like, "What are the major points in this section? How does this apply to my life? What part or parts of God's character is portrayed here?" The questions you can ask are numerous.

If we seriously study God's Word, we can "give an account of the hope that is in us."

God gave us the Bible and it is, in written form, the foundation of our faith.

Rez cont'd

confirmed that Roy was the man. So, we talked and we prayed. It's just been great. I don't expect that we're gonna have any personnel changes for awhile. I can't tell you, I mean tomorrow God might say, 'Forget Rez. It's finished. It's over.' He may say, 'Change this around or that around.' We'll do that if He says so. We're always on hold. We've been on hold for 16 years. It's really up to God to make the choices and for us to be listening and be open to whatever and anything, as long as it's Biblical. Then we just simply try to be obedient."

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BANDS—SEND INFO TO RIZZEN ROXX AND WE WILL FEATURE YOU!



The intensity of Les Carlson and Bloodgood was evident at their Cornerstone set. Photo by Todd Myra.

The silliest guitarist in the world. Photo by Todd Myra.



Bloodgood recently played in front of 15,000 screaming fans at England's Greenbelt Festival. Kerrang! invited them to their exclusive photo studio for a photo session and interview. They also put in a killer performance at Cornerstone.

Les tells us that the band is concentrating on making the third album as exciting as the first two.

If you didn't get a chance to see them so far on their tour, don't worry. They are planning on being a mega-touring band for the next few years.

Trytan - Celestial Messenger

Celestial Messenger has finally been released to an unsuspecting world. I'm real excited that this has finally been released. Regency Records, out of Burbank, California is distributing it. Their warehouse has already sold out of cassettes. More are being pressed right now.

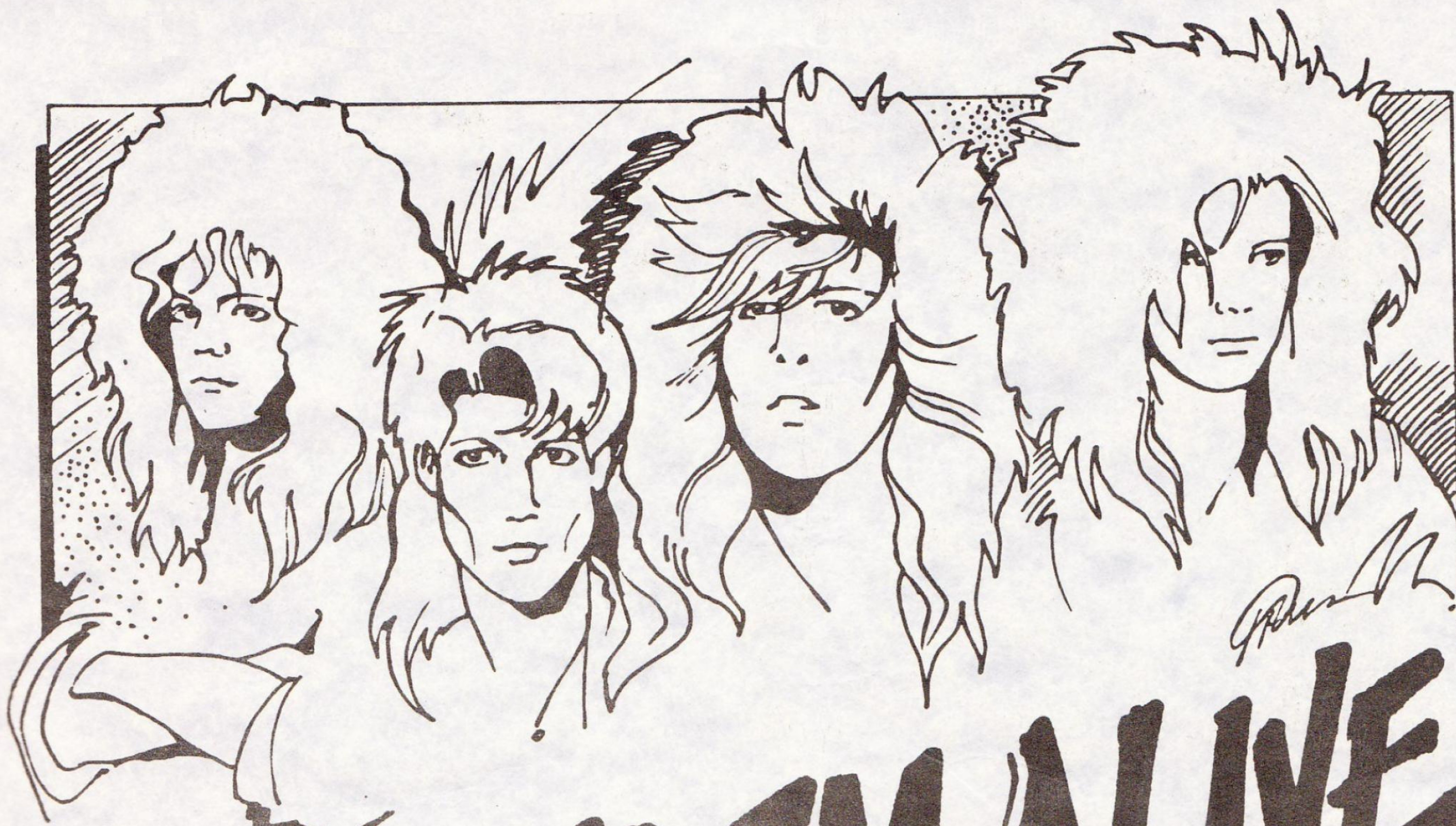
You, the readers of Heaven's Metal, and I have had a unique opportunity to view Lary Dean's attitude about his ministry from his small-time status to this big-time record deal. We could see his contentedness with being where he was and also being very active for the Lord where he was and not sitting around dreaming of the big time. He kept busy ministering in two bands and just showed godly patience toward the future. I believe that, during this time, we got to see that Lary's heart really is humble before the Lord. All the blessings and hype that he may receive in the near future, man it couldn't go to a kinder person.

This album should open up doors for this ministry to knock down some doors and gates of hell. It has some of the songs that were on the demo plus a new song called **It's War**.

This song starts out with some cool synthesizer and then later kicks in with a crunch/ distorted rhythm. It's a killer song, like all the other Trytan tunes. It has a fresh sound that's big and full. There's some fast and prolific riffs in this song with notes hit in rapid succession and mangled under the strong arm of the vibrato bar.

If it's not in your local record store, order it from Spring Arbor. Spring Arbor is a distributor that almost every Christian bookstore uses.

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STORES. IF YOU
DON'T SEE IT,
ASK FOR IT!

INTENSE RECORDS
(312) 662-5048

IT'S YOUR.... CHOICE!



You have been blessed with a free will. You use it every day as you make decisions about what to wear, what to eat, or whether to do right or wrong in a situation. No one forces you to make these decisions, but there are forces at work persuading you to make a decision one way or the other.

You have peers that exert a certain amount of pressure on your fashion. If all your friends are wearing jeans, you're not likely to wear a velvet tuxedo. If your friends are into hardcore punk, you're not likely to wear a Donny Osmond t-shirt. If all of your friends are going to eat at McDonald's, there's a pressure to influence your decision on where to eat. If you're in a store with a shoplifting friend and see someone drop a twenty dollar bill, you're gonna experience pressure to keep it.

All of these are examples in the physical realm of forces trying to persuade you to make a decision. These forces aren't half as intense as the forces that operate in the spiritual realm.

There are two basic kingdoms within the spiritual realm in which these forces operate. There is God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom (Mark 1:15, Matthew 12:25-26). God has servants that sometimes persuade men. These are called angels. Most of the time God Himself persuades man in the personality of the Holy Spirit. Satan has servants called demons, which are fallen angels. They persuade men away from God.

Both of these kingdoms are clashing over your soul. If you are a friend of God, God owns you and therefore you don't have to worry about the outcome of this battle for your soul. God has won it. If you don't know God, you're in serious trouble. You are under the domain of Satan if you're not a friend of God. This presents a problem, because Satan is going to lose the battle against God and you're going to lose also.

If you don't give God your soul now, while your free will is able to make decisions, God will not take your soul when you die. Your soul will be separated from God forever. You'll be in the loser's camp, which will not be a good place to be.

Now you understand the forces that will influence your decision over your soul's ownership. Let's look at the decision itself: You have the right to give or not to give your soul to God. This means being His friend or being His enemy. If you're His friend, you've chosen His desires, His pleasure and His will over yours. You obey Him. You seek Him for fellowship. You hang out with Him and talk to Him and listen to Him. You can be His friend by admitting that you're presently His enemy and that He is Who He says He is: Lord. Jesus Christ has died as a sacrifice for you, that your sins may be paid for and that you may now know the Holy God. He loves you. If you tell the Lord, "I claim that Jesus' sacrifice covers my sins," and repent from sin, you will be God's friend and you will be forgiven of your sin.

You can choose God and choose not to sin, or you can choose sin. Sin is rebellion against God. If you do things your own way instead of God's way, you're rebelling against God. "If you're a friend of the world, you're an enemy of God." (James 4:4) Any choice that's not a direct choice to know God and live holy before Him is a choice against God. It's plain and simple. No choice is a "no" choice. There is no in-between. There's no room for games.

Jesus Himself said, "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters." (Matthew 12:30) He drew the line right there. The choice is yours: Follow God or don't follow God. Which one are you gonna choose?